(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) At a routine review meeting taken by Minister (P&NG) sixteen points for priority action were identified, including several relating to energy security issues in India and abroad. As for as it relates to the Hydrocarbons sector, these points comprise the following elements:—

(i) Increased exploration for hydrocarbon in domestic acreages under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Bids for 20 blocks under the Fifth round of NELP closed on 31.5.2005 to an overwhelming response from domestic as well as foreign companies. By the bid closing date, 69 bids were received which has been the highest compared to earlier rounds.

(ii) Measures for Improved and Enhanced Oil Recovery (IOR/EOR) from producing/ageing fields;

(iii) Acquisition of overseas oil and gas reserves through acquisition of equity or Participating Interest (PI) in exploration acreages or producing properties;

(iv) Creation of strategic reserves;

(v) Exploration of non-conventional fossil fuels like Coal Bed Methane, Gas Hydrates and Underground Coal Gasification;

(vi) Bringing oil/gas through trans-national pipelines.

Delay in Supply of Gas Cylinders in Kerala

*29. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector companies reduced the distribution of number of refilled cooking gas cylinders in various districts of Kerala recently;

(b) if so, whether there was delay in receiving refilled cooking gas cylinders in various districts of Kerala in June, 2005 and thereafter;

(c) the reasons for the delay in receiving refilled cooking gas cylinders;

(d) the action taken, if any, to avoid delay; and

(e) the details including number of refilled cooking gas cylinders distributed for the last three years through various public sector companies Kerala, district-wise, years-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) With a view to monitoring and minimising unauthorised usage of domestic LPG, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have started strict scheduling and monitoring of supplies to their distributors throughout the country, including Kerala, since June 2004.

On account of regulated supplies to distributors, in certain markets, rush of refill booking may cause a time gap between the date of refill booking and date of refill supply. However, in such cases, necessary corrective action is taken by OMCs. OMCs have reported that they are meeting full requirement of their genuine LPG customers in various districts of Kerala.

(e) The number of domestic LPG cylinders sold by OMCs in Kerala during the period 2002-03 to 2004-05 has been as follows:

Year	No. of Cylinders (in lakh)
2002-03	196.6
2003-04	267.8
2004-05	310.5

Crop Insurance Scheme for Orissa

*30. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crop insurance companies are showing little interest in Orissa resulting in a raw deal to it;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the mandate of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme is to restore the credibility of a farmer in the event of his crop failure, whereas a vast majority of the farming community in Orissa has been left outside its ambit; and